

Memorial Acknowledging  
the Effect of 9/11  
on Muslim Americans

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## Purpose

*What idea honor the effect of 9/11 on Muslim Americans?*

It gives Muslim Americans the knowledge and comfort of knowing that those who view this monument will understand the pain and struggles that Muslims go through everyday in America.

*What is the best choice?*

This monument forces observers to view themselves as a Muslim American and face their own thoughts and prejudice. Rather than just looking at a piece of artwork, those who look at my monument can interact and engage with it. Rather than interpreting an abstract artwork, my audience has to face their own thoughts.

*What is your monument?*

Muslim Americans will appreciate this monument, as well as other racial and ethnic groups that wear head coverings, for they are often perceived as Muslims and therefore receive similar prejudice. Those who understand that all Muslims aren't responsible for the tragedies that occurred on 9/11 will be pleased with this, as well.

4.

This monument specifically addresses the Muslim Americans who wear hijabs. For those women, and her friends and family, male or female, this monument should hit close to home. The mirror that takes the place of a face allows viewers to see that the hijab hides nothing but another American. In theory, the viewer would then address his or her own faults, in regards to the negative views of Muslim Americans, as he or she views him/herself as a hijabi.

*What is your monument?* 5.

Avid supporters of the wars in the Middle East will not like this monument. The people who blame the entire population of Muslims for 9/11 will not support it. In some circumstances, the families of the victims of 9/11 may disagree with the monument.

The lack of support for a monument of this nature stems from a lack of knowledge and possibly an overall sense of ignorance. Those who do not support acknowledging the effects of 9/11 on Muslim American are presumably the same people who blame all Muslims for attacks perpetrated by a small group of extremists. This may stem from the lack of diversity in some parts of our country, since 9/11 was the first exposure of Muslims to many Americans which lead to a permanent terroristic stereotype.

I would create three monuments. I would place one in LA, one in Miami, and one in Manhattan. According to the map, there has been high concentrations of Anti-Muslim hate crimes in these areas. I chose the more popular locations in Southern California, South Florida, and the City so they would receive more attention from the media. Since these are tourist locations, I would hope the monuments would draw the attentizmon of the locals and those in that area that dislike Muslims because of the ties their religion has to terrorism and 9/11 as well.



*What is the potential risk involved here?*

The monument is concrete, however each person may interpret it differently. Muslims may feel this is disrespectful to their religion since the hijab is a supposed to be worn with

respect. Since I am not even Muslim, some may feel this is offensive because I cannot relate to their struggles.

### Symbolism

The bust wearing the hijab would sit upon a base in order to reach the eye level of those who were observing the monument. The base that the bust rests on would be blue since this color represents acceptance and peace. Using blue, rather than white, avoids possible issues that people can create regarding race. The base would be a cylinder. The circle that the bust rest on represents unity, for the purpose of this monument is to tear down the walls and stereotypes that so many Americans have against all Muslims due to the acts of a few extremists and create a more unified nation. I used a mirror as face, rather than leaving it blank, to allow those who view the memorial to reflect on their own actions, thoughts, and behaviors. When one views his or her own reflection wearing a hijab, I hope they will use this concrete vision to recognize their faults, if they have any, in regards to their prejudice towards Muslim Americans.

